

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: JANUARY 10 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. SIMON WINCHESTER, IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON POST FROM NEW DELHI, REPORTED THAT VISITING BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD ANNOUNCED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE INDIA TO ACCEPT FULL INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. WINCHESTER NOTED INDIA HAS REFUSED TO SIGN NPT AND ONLY LAST WEEK PRESIDENT CARTER "F D IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI TO SIGN ACCORD." WINCHESTER REPORTED THAT CALLAGHAN SAID WHILE INDIA STILL IS REFUSING TO ACTUALLY SIGN NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, DESAI HAS AGREED TO ALLOW FULL INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ALL OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES ONCE U.S., BRITAIN, AND USSR AGREE ON PRINCIPLES
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OF NEW COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY, WHICH BRITISH LEADER SAID WOULD OCCUR LATER THIS YEAR. CALLAGHAN SAID HE DOES NOT REGARD INDIA'S REFUSAL TO SIGN NPT AS "ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO PROBLEM" OF INSURING THAT INDIA DOES NOT IN FUTURE USE ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WINCHESTER SAID DESAI APPEARED TO HAVE MADE ONE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION. DESAI, HE REPORTED, APPARENTLY IS

NO LONGER INSISTING THAT CHINA AND FRANCE SIGN COMPREHENSIVE TREATY THAT WOULD PLEDGE ITS SIGNATORIES TO BAN ALL NUCLEAR TESTS.

2. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING FRANCE WAS SEEKING TO ALTER ITS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT INSTALLATION WOULD NOT PRODUCE PURE PLUTONIUM WHICH COULD BE DIVERTED FOR USE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TIMES SAID "FRENCH DECISION TO SEEK CHANGE IN CONTRACT WITH PAKISTANIS HAS LEFT WEST GERMANY ISOLATED ON ISSUE OF SELLING REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT ABROAD." FRENCH STATEMENT SAID FRANCE HAD PROPOSED TO PAKISTAN LAST SEPTEMBER THAT IT "STUDY MODIFICATION OF FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT SO THAT IT WOULD NOT PRODUCE PURE PLUTONIUM." ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, TIMES REPORTED, IT WOULD TAKE PAKISTAN 15 TO 20 YEARS TO USE PLUTONIUM UNDER PROPOSED NEW PROCESS. TIMES OBSERVED "FRENCH GOVERNMENT DID NOT SAY WHY IT HAD WAITED SINCE SEPTEMBER TO DISCLOSE OFFER TO PAKISTANIS, NOR DID IT MAKE ANY MENTION OF PAKISTAN'S RESPONSE." TIMES POINTED OUT THAT LAST SATURDAY, "AMID REPORTS THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS ABOUT TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW OFFER, PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT VETOED IDEA OF ANY CHANGE IN CONTRACT TERMS."

3. CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES U.S. BETWEEN NOW AND YEAR 2000 WILL SPEND FROM 111 BILLION TO 140 BILLION DOLLARS ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES DESIGNED TO DETER SOVIET NUCLEAR ATTACK. CORDDRY SAID "HIGHER RANGES OF ESTIMATES MADE BY STAFF AGENCY DEPEND ON HOW FAR NATION GOES IN DEVELOPING POWERFUL NEW MISSILES THAT COULD DEMOLISH RUSSIAN STRATEGIC FORCES AS WELL AS CITIES IN RETALIATORY STRIKES. CITY-BUSTING FORCE ALONE COULD BE MAINTAINED AT LOWER LEVEL OF BUDGET OFFICE'S PROJECTIONS." SUN CORRESPONDENT SAID STUDY WAS DESIGNED TO BRIEF CONGRESS ON COSTS OF VARIOUS WEAPONS ON WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO MAKE CRUCIAL DECISIONS, AS WELL AS THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR DETERRENCE AND ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PRODUCED DATA SUGGESTING THAT VULNERABILITY OF MINUTEMAN MISSILE FORCE HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED, AND THAT THERE IS MORE TIME TO CONSIDER NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS, CORDDRY SAID. HE REPORTED THAT CONGRESSIONAL STUDY SAID PENDING SALT AGREEMENT APPARENTLY WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRAIN MODERNIZATION OF SOVIET MISSILE FORCES NOW UNDER WAY. BUT ATTACK BY THOSE FORCES, WITH NUMBERS OF WARHEADS AND ACCURACIES NOW EXPECTED, WOULD DESTROY NO MORE THAN 40 TO 60 PERCENT OF 1,054 U.S.

LAND-BASED MISSILES, STUDY SAID. THAT WOULD MAKE ATTACK "RISKY PROSPECT" FOR MOSCOW, STUDY ADDED. BUDGET OFFICE SAID SUCCESSFUL SOVIET ATTACK ON LAND-BASED MISSILES "WOULD NOT COMPROMISE ABILITY OF U.S. TO INFLICT DEVASTATING RETALIATION." IN OPTIONS LAID BEFORE CONGRESS, BUDGET OFFICE SAID CITY-BUSTING RETALIATORY FORCE, WITH TODAY'S LAND-BASED MISSILES, FORTHCOMING TRIDENT SUBMARINES AND BOMBER-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES, WOULD COST 111 BILLION DOLLARS BY 2000. FORCE WITH MUCH-EXPANDED ARSENAL OF CRUISE MISSILES ABLE TO STRIKE RUSSIAN MILITARY TARGETS COULD COST 125.5 BILLION DOLLARS OVER SAME PERIOD. THIRD OPTION, FORCE ABLE TO STRIKE RAPIDLY IN RETALIATION TO ATTACK, AND EMPHASIZING MX AND/OR TRIDENT-2, COULD COST UP TO 140 BILLION DOLLARS BY 2000.

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4. NEWSWEEK, CITING CIA ESTIMATES, SAID SOVIET UNION WILL SPEND 147 BILLION DOLLARS ON DEFENSE THIS YEAR. U.S. OUTLAY IS ESTIMATED AT 105 BILLION DOLLARS. "BUT PROJECTING INTO FUTURE, CIA CONCLUDES THAT RUSSIA PLANS NO MAJOR STEP-UP IN MILITARY SPENDING IN 1980S," NEWSWEEK SAID. "EVEN IF CURRENT SALT TWO TALKS FAIL, MOSCOW ISN'T EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE ANY CRASH STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAMS."

5. PHIL DAVISON OF REUTERS REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR RALPH EARLE AND SOVIET ENVOY VLADIMIR SEMENOV WERE IN GENEVA FOR RESUMPTION OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS. DAVISON SAID 221ST SESSION OF SALT TWO WILL BE IN SOVIET MISSION. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT NOTED THAT U.S.-SOVIET TALKS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS ALSO WOULD RESUME IN GENEVA THIS WEEK.

6. NICHOLAS DANILOFF OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT TOP SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY SPECIALISTS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 22 AS GUESTS OF HOUSE AND SENATE TO ASSESS ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS, ARMS CONTROL, AND OTHER POLICIES. BORIS N. PONOMAREV, A SECRETARY OF COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HEADS DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDES DR. GEORGI ARBATOV, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN STUDIES. DANILOFF QUOTED SOURCE AS SAYING AMERICANS HOPE EXPERIENCE WILL CLARIFY FOR VISITORS ROLE OF CONGRESS IN APPROVING PROJECTED STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD. SOVIET NEGOTIATORS, SOURCE SAID, SOMETIMES HAVE FAILED TO REALIZE FULLY OBJECTIONS AND COMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD DELAY CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION. SOVIET DELEGATION, WHICH WILL VISIT SEVERAL CITIES, OFFICIALLY IS RETURNING VISIT OF TWO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO MOSCOW IN 1975

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AND 1976. VANCE

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